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REPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 9 September 1996 from the Charge d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 9 September 1996 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the continued aggressive policy of the United States of America towards Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 11 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 9 September 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter to you of 8 September 1996, I should like to draw your attention to the continuing aggressive policy of the United States of America towards Iraq. The aggressive American forces and their supporters have continued to violate our airspace. On 8 September 1996, there were 111 sorties by hostile aircraft, supported by two early-warning AWACS aircraft, one over northern Iraq, which took off from Turkey, and one over southern Iraq, which took off from Saudi Arabia.

This military action clearly constitutes aggression against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Iraq, contravening the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law.

On this occasion I should also like to draw your attention to the matter of the two "no-fly zones" which the United States of America and the United Kingdom have imposed on Iraq. The Government of Iraq has repeatedly stated that the imposition of these "no-fly zones" constitutes a continuing unilateral act of aggressive armed force directed against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Iraq, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The Government of the Republic of Iraq will require the States that have taken this action to bear international liability for damage sustained by Iraq in consequence thereof.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq requests that the United Nations assume its responsibilities under the Charter by taking appropriate action to put a stop to this aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 11 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq